

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 HA-05 AID-05 OES-07 /052 W
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 727
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 5359

FOLLOWING CABLE SENT ACTION PRIORITY NEW DELHI FROM MADRAS APRIL 6
REPPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRAS 0557

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IN
SUBJECT: ANDHRA PRADESH: TENSIONS EASE

REF: (A) MADRAS 0549; (B) NEW DELHI 5271

1. THE OPPOSITION PARTIES -- JANATA, CONGRESS, CPM, CPI, MAJLIS --
CALLED OF THEIR AGITATION AGAINST "POLICE ATROCITIES" AFTER A
DISCUSSION WITH CHIEF MINISTER CHENNA REDDY APRIL 5 AND THE
CHIEF MINISTER ANNOUNCED THAT THE CURFEW WOULD END AT 600 HOURS
APRIL 6. COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS WERE TO REOPEN, THE CHIEF MINISTER
SAID, STATING THAT "NORMALCY WOULD BE RESTORED." ALL PERSONS
UNDER PREVENTIVE DETENTION WILL BE RELEASED, AND THE GOVERNMENT
HAS PROMISED A "LIBERAL" POLICY IN RELEASING THOSE ARRESTED ON
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SPECIFIC CHARGES. MOST OF THE 800 PERSONS ARRESTED WILL THUS BE
RELEASED. THE OPPOSITION CALLED OFF THE PROPOSED BANDH IN
VIJAYAWADA AND OTHER TOWNS.

2. THE REAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CHIEF MINISTER AND THE
OPPOSITION WAS THAT CONCERNING THE JUDICIAL INQUIRY INTO POLICE
FIRINGS. CHENNA REDDY OPPOSED A JUDICIAL INQUIRY ON THE

GROUND THAT THE QUESTION OF POLICE FIRINGS ON THE CROWDS WAS AN ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER TO BE DEALT WITH BY A MAGISTRATE. HIS REFUSAL TO ACCEDE TO OPPOSITION DEMANDS FOR THE INQUIRY LED TO THE AGITATIONS WHICH SPREAD FROM HYDERABAD TO THE DISTRICTS. THE CHIEF MINISTER HAS NOW AGREED TO CALL A JUDICIAL INQUIRY IF THE ROUTINE MAGISTERIAL INVESTIGATION INDICATES ONE IS REQUIRED.

3. THE CPI (ML) DID NOT SIGN THE STATEMENT CALLING OFF THE AGITATION. THE CPI (ML) LEADER TERMED CHENNA REDDY'S ALLEGATION THAT THE NAXALITES WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE AGITATION AS "BASELESS AND IRRESPONSIBLE."

4. COMMENT: THE FACT THAT THE OPPOSITION WAS ABLE TO CALL OFF THE AGITATION SO QUICKLY WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE THAT CHENNA REDDY'S ALLEGATION OF NAXALITE PROVOCATION WAS IN FACT A REDDY TACTIC TO TURN AWAY CRITICISM OF HIS GOVERNMENT. WE EXPECT THAT NORMALCY WILL RETURN AND THAT THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER TROUBLE IF THE POLICE ENGAGE IN NO PROVOCATIVE ACTIONS. AT THIS POINT, WE SEE NO PROBLEM IN HOLDING THE U.S.- INDIA JOINT SENSING WORKSHOP IN HYDERABAD, APRIL 10-14 (REF B). WE WILL, OF COURSE, REPORT FURTHER IF THERE IS ANY INDICATION THAT THE AGITATION APPEARS TO BE STARTING UP AGAIN. MCCASKILL UNQUOTE

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